

ROCHDALE ASSOCIATION. FOOTBALL CLUB



ROCHDALE

V

WIGAN ATHLETIC

FOURTH DIVISION LEAGUE MATCH

SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER, 1980 K.O. 3.0 p.m.

20p

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THE EDITOR WRITES

With Wigan Athletic at Spotland today, perhaps this is not an appropriate time to assess the system of re-election or admission to the Football League.

Even so, I'll give you my view on the whole system which, I feel, needs close examination and reform.

In the past few years several good clubs have been voted out of the Football League and they have been replaced by clubs which, in many cases have not been better than the ones which they displaced.

Perhaps Wigan are an exception with their splendid ground and their good "gates".

But take, for example, Hereford, Wimbledon and quite a few other clubs which have arrived on the League scene since the war. They do not win many medals, their "gates" are not good and they find themselves in the same kind of struggle as Southport, Barrow or Bradford P.A., clubs which were given the chop.

Take, say, Lincoln, Walsall or Newport. These are clubs which survived by the skin of their teeth, yet recovered to enjoy success and relative prosperity.

With so many clubs wanting to join the League isn't it time that the league was extended so that all the hopeful little clubs can get their chance of moving from a fifth, or split fourth division, into the higher reaches of the Football League.

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Madden Mentions

I cannot say I was over the moon about three defeats in a row - at Hereford and Bournemouth and then at home to Bradford City.

But I am not particularly pessimistic either.

I said at the beginning of the season that there would be defeats and I am not daft enough to say that there won't be more to come.

What I do say is that we are all working very hard to see that defeat is less frequent a visitor to Spotland than victory. I know where the weaknesses are and we are all doing our best to eliminate them.

I am not one for making excuses, but I would point out that some of the clubs we are playing have paid out more for one player than we have paid for our entire team.

Furthermore, most of our opponents have been together for a very long time whilst we are in the process of sorting ourselves out and making a winning team out of what we have.

I'm sorry when we lose - sorry for you the supporters and sorry for the lads out on the pitch for, take my word for it, they are playing their hearts out to give you something to cheer.

I'm looking to strengthen the side where it needs it, but, as you all know I can hardly compete in the open market with some of the wealthier clubs which are interested in players whom I would like to see at Spotland.

NEXT HOME MATCH

DALE v BURY

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Welcome to WIGAN ATHLETIC

After years in the wilderness, Wigan are making a big impression in the Football League, even though they are off to a slightly faltering start this season.

They seem to have collected quite a useful side and certainly Dale have not had much change out of them since their admission to the League.

The impressive thing about today's visitors is that they are so full of ambition and it does look as if they could become one of the better clubs of the lower divisions, or achieve even more as they consolidate.

Certainly things seem to be going for them. They attract good crowds and their ground has considerable possibilities.

Some of their players have made their mark in the League already with Frank Corrigan, Peter Houghton and Tommy Gore becoming household names beyond the boundaries of Wigan.

Here at Rochdale we wish today's visitors the best of luck and express the hope that there will be many more encounters between the two clubs, preferably in a higher division than the Fourth.

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CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

JOHN FAULKES

Progress is steadily being made to improve the Club's situation, both on and off the field. By the time you are reading this, the terracing in front of B Stand should be more or less completed and we have now negotiated a price with a Builder for the re-furbishing of the Social Club and work will now soon be starting.

The commercial side of the club is developing steadily, thanks to the untiring efforts of our Lottery Agents. Jack Connor and Brian Johnson are increasing the Agency network and hopefully this trend will continue.

You are no doubt aware from earlier comment in this programme and from adverts in the media that we are about to launch a new fund raising Football Pool. This new Pool, known as Unique Pools, will be the first time that the benefits of a Football Pool will go directly back into football itself.

To this end, we have set up an agency for Rochdale A.F.C. throughout the whole of Lancashire, except for Rochdale itself. The reason for this is that we have an expanding and successful lottery and we obviously do not want the sale of the new Pool tickets to be conflicting with the sale of our existing lottery tickets at this stage.

Mr. Mel Carter has been appointed by the Board as Promotions Consultant and he will be directly responsible to the Board for the organisation and marketing of the new Pool, which will be financed quite independently from the Club.

As the commercial side of the Club is now expanding, the Board have decided to transfer the commercial operations away from the Club offices. This has the benefit of improving the efficiency of both the administration of the Club and the commercial operations. Effective from Monday 6th October, the Unique Pool will operate from separate administration offices and it is the Board's intention, in due course, to also transfer the administration of the lottery. I should stress at this point that this will not affect the lottery agents in any way.

The next few weeks are therefore going to be of great significance so far as Rochdale A.F.C. is concerned, however, in the meantime, we still need more lottery agents within the immediate Rochdale area, more tradesmen to help within the Supporters Club on ground improvements etc. and above all, more supporters at Spotland on match days - bring a friend next weekend!

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Good afternoon and welcome to Spotland. We look forward to a sporting and entertaining game.

The Supporters Club is presently organizing a trip to the Golden Garter on November 14th to see the Black Abbots. The outing includes a three-course meal (full menu) and transport for around £10. If you are interested could you please leave a deposit with Mrs Smith at the Supporters Club office.

There will be a dance on behalf of the Dale appeal fund at Turners Latin Suite on Wednesday 3rd December, with Disco and Potato-pie-Supper, you will be able to meet Peter Madden and the players. Tickets are priced £2 and are going very quickly so buy yours now at the Club Office

The Supporters Club will be represented at a couple of programme fairs Tomorrow we will be at the Bolton Programme Fair, at the Pack Horse Hotel Bradshawgate, Bolton 11 to 3 and on Sunday 19th October, at the Oldham Programme Fair at the Boundary Club, Oldham. 9.30. A.P.C. 10.30 to 2.30

There are still places available for the trip to Lincoln on Wednesday leaving at 4.30, Adults £3, Juniors £2 and for the game at Aldershot next Saturday leaving at 8 a.m. Adults £6.50, Juniors £4.50. Please book at the Club office.

We now have a new stock of pullovers and ties in the club shop. We also have Badges, photos, pens and other souvenirs as well as a large selection of programmes, Brian and Trevor will be only too pleased to help.

SPOTLIGHT ON

EUGENE MARTINEZ

One might well ask how does a man with a name like Eugene Martinez come to be signed from Bradford to play with Rochdale?

The answer is that the wingman who promises to become Rochdale's "Whitehead of the 80's" has Spanish parents. Thirty years ago his father came to this country to study engineering and decided to stay.

Now the Martinez family have a thriving engineering firm at Harrogate under the name of Micro Vitec.

Eugene is 23 years old and he had the usual decision to make - whether to be a scholar or a footballer. He decided on football but he is still determined to make his mark as an engineer.

Rochdale were very lucky to get young Martinez, especially as there were some long faces at Bradford when City decided to let him go.

"I was expected to play in midfield and I felt that I would never have a first team place of my own at City. When Rochdale offered me a job I was more than pleased and I have no reason to be anything else now that I am here. I'm very happy at Rochdale and if the chance comes of a move up in the world, I'll have to think about it for a long time. Being happy with your club is worth a lot" hesays.

Eugene has played for Yorkshire Schoolboys, North Yorkshire and of course, for his school in Harrogate.

And in case you are interested in gardening, the father of his girlfriend, Caroline, is Mr. Geoffrey Smith the B.B.C. television gardener.

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UNIQUE POOLS

Many of our supporters and local residents may have seen the advertisement in the Rochdale Observer recently advertising a new type of Pool coupon. These coupons are the brainchild of our own Vice President Mr. Ken Naylor. Ken is a Nottingham resident and as a qualified Accountant has applied all of his technical knowledge to inventing a coupon that guarantees really worthwhile prizes for a small investment. After two years he has come up with a pre-printed perm covering 8 football teams. What happens is you buy a 25p per week pool coupon which designates the outcome of 8 matches on the next Saturday.

If your coupon indicates that certain teams win lose or draw, plus which game has the most goals in it, in any given pair of games, this will result in 12 possible selections; should they all turn out to be correct then it is anticipated that a first dividend of as much as £14,00 will be paid. There are 7 dividends altogether for 11 or 10 correct results and so on. At first the coupons may seem a little difficult to understand but once you get the hang of it they are really fascinating and interesting.

Negotiations are going on with several football clubs to act as Pool Agents for their County, and we have heard that one Council are interested in an Agency in order to build a new hospital wing from the proceeds.

We here at Rochdale are fortunate to have negotiated an Agency for the whole of Lancashire and all the motorway cafes, nationally, should the motorway unit operators, such as Granada etc. be agreeable to sell the coupons at their sites. We want to stress that these pools are not intended to replace our lottery which is really helping the Club right now and has gathered momentum each week under the guidance of Jack Connor and Brian Johnson.

The Pools will receive national newspaper coverage and we are employing people throughout Lancashire to distribute books of 100 to social clubs, sports clubs and associations which will receive a handsome commission based on the sale of these coupons to their members. The success of this Agency could add a new dimension to the future of our Club and the Directors and Staff join together in wishing Ken Naylor all the success that is going, when he publishes the first coupon for matches played on October 18th.

By the way, although they are weekly coupons, to avoid heavy costs and administrative expenses each coupon will cover matches played in two successive weeks and will therefore cost 50p.

If you are selling our lottery tickets already in your Club, then we really thank you and are truly grateful, please carry on with the good work. If your Club does not have this sort of Agency then why not contact Mel Carter at the Dale, and discuss your requirements with him.

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